

## *What is Stephen Ministry?*

Stephen was one of the first lay people commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry (Acts 6).

Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one, same sex, Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.



Stephen Ministry helps pastors and congregations provide quality caring ministry for as long as people need it.

Stephen Ministry is highly effective and has been successfully used in thousands of congregations from more than 150 denominations and 26 countries since it was established in 1975 at St. Louis, Missouri.

## *Who is a Stephen Minister?*

- A caring Christian who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages
- A child of God who walks alongside with a person who is suffering
- A lay person who committed time and effort to:
  - Receive 50 hours of initial training with materials provided by the Stephen Ministries Headquarters.
  - Participate in twice per month peer supervision and continuing education.
- Someone who will “be there” for his or her care receiver, meeting faithfully for about an hour each week, for as long as there is a need.



## *Who will benefit from the Stephen Minister care?*

Stephen Ministers are ready to provide emotional and spiritual care to a person facing a crisis or difficulty, such as:

- Loss of a loved one
- Hospitalization
- Divorce or separation
- Loneliness or discouragement



- A terminal illness
- A chronic illness
- Aging
- Unemployment or a job crisis
- Mild depression or anxiety
- Spiritual crisis

## *Stephen Ministry at GCAC*

- Stephen Ministry is a way for GCAC members to continue to serve and grow in Christ through providing distinctive Christian care.
- Since 2009, a group of brothers and sisters at GCAC has been trained as Stephen Ministers and is serving in close collaboration with the Pastors and the Elder of Care Ministry.
- The GCAC Stephen Ministry has joined the network of local community churches in Montgomery County to train new Stephen Ministers and is a member of the Stephen Ministry Chinese Church Network in North America.



## *Stephen Ministry and You*

- Could you benefit from the confidential, one-to-one, same sex, Christ-like care and support of a Stephen Minister?
- Do you know someone who is suffering and could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister?
- Are you interested in becoming a care giver and providing distinctive Christian care to those who are suffering, or want more information about the GCAC Stephen Ministry?



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## **GCAC Care Ministries**



# **STEPHEN MINISTRY**



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